

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 EUR-12 CU-02 PC-01 MCT-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /099 W
----- 065246

R 011010Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5340

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 JOHANNESBURG 2092

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT SF

SUBJECT: PLATFORM OF BLACK UNITY MOVEMENT UNVEILED

1. THE PLATFORM OF THE BLACK UNITY MOVEMENT WAS UNVEILED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 29 AT JAN SMUTS AIRPORT, PRESIDED OVER BY GATSHA BUTHELEZI, AND OTHERS INCLUDING GIBSON THULA, AND DAVID THEBEHALI, SOWETO UBC CHAIRMAN. OF PARTICULAR NOTE WAS THE EMPHASIS ON BLACK SOLIDARITY, DROPPING ANY AND ALL REFERENCE TO THE ZULU ORIGINS OF THE INKATHA MOVEMENT, AND INCORPORATING WITHIN THE PLATFORM A DESIRE TO SCRAP "IMPROPER EXPLOITATION OF ETHNIC DIVISIONS". THIS POINT WAS EMPHASIZED BY INCLUDING A SOTHO ON THE GOVERNING COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL MAJOR HOMELANDS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE CISKEY, IN THE GROUP. WHEN QUESTIONED, BUTHELEZI DID SEEM TROUBLED BY THE CONTINUED REJECTION OF THE BLACK UNITY MOVEMENT BY THE SOWETO STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC).

2. THE SRC WILL NOT COOPERATE WITH THE BLACK UNITY MOVEMENT BECAUSE
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IT DISTRUSTS BUTHELEZI, FEELING HE IS A "SELL-OUT" BY VIRTUE

OF HIS POSITION AS HOMELAND LEADER. IN ANY EVENT, WHILE THE BLACK UNITY MOVEMENT ACKNOWLEDGES THE SRC'S POWER IN SOWETO AT THIS TIME, IT DOES APPEAR PREPARED TO EXERT CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO CAPTURE THE LEADERSHIP OF THE BLACK POWER MOVEMENT, AT THE EXPENSE OF THE SRC IF NECESSARY.

TEXT OF PLATFORM FOLLOWS: (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED)

"BLACK UNITY FRONT

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE AT JAN SMUTS HOLIDAY INN, JOHANNESBURG, 29TH NOVEMBER, 1976.

"WE HAVE CALLED THIS PRESS CONFERENCE TO SPELL OUT THE MESSAGE WHICH THE BLACK COMMUNITY HAS FOR EVERY CITIZEN IN SOUTH AFRICA.

"WHITES HAVE LONG BEEN TOLD THAT BLACK REJECTION OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT IS COMMUNIST INSPIRED. WE THEREFORE STRESS THAT WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY IS THE GENUINE AND DEEPLY FELT SENTIMENTS OF THE VAST MAJORITY OF BLACKS IN THE COUNTRY. "WE BLACKS NEED NO COMMUNISTS TO CONVINCE US THAT WE SUFFER. WE NEED NO WHITE LIBERALS TO TELL US THAT WE NEED LIBERATION.

"WE HAVE LOST FAITH IN WHITE LEADERSHIP OF WHATEVER PERSUASION. ONLY THE BLACKS CAN EVOLVE LEADERSHIP WHICH WILL RETURN TO THE ROAD OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

"THIS ATTITUDE DOES NOT REJECT WHITES AS A COMMUNITY. IT IS SIMPLY THE SELF-REALISATION OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY. WE KNOW OUR BLACK LEADERS WILL ONE DAY ESTABLISH A NON-RACIAL POLITICAL SYSTEM IN THIS COUNTRY IN WHICH THERE WILL BE NO EXPLOITATION OF MAN BY MAN.

"THE MOMENT OF TRUTH HAS ARRIVED FOR THE WHITE MAN. HE EITHER ACCEPTS THE BLACK MAN OR REJECTS HIM COMPLETELY. THERE IS NO MIDDLE COURSE. FOOLING AROUND WITH SUCH THINGS AS SEPARATE IDENTITIES IS JUST CRIMINAL FOLLY AND WILL DO THE COUNTRY GREAT HARM.

"THE CHOICE LIES BETWEEN A NON-RACIAL SOCIETY WHICH REQUIRES THAT PEOPLE (BLACK AND WHITE) BE ALLOWED FREE UNRESTRICTED ASSOCIATION, OR SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. APARTHEID OR MAJORITY RULE. THE CHOICE IS AS SIMPLE AS THAT.

"APARTHEID HAS ALWAYS BEEN REJECTED BY BLACKS, REJECTED TO THE EXTENT THAT THE SYSTEM ONLY REMAINS IN FORCE BECAUSE IT IS BACKED BY UNPARALLELED REPRESSIVE AND COERCIVE LEGISLATION.

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"EVEN THIS LEGISLATION HAS NOW PROVEN TO BE DEFICIENT. THE WHITE COMMUNITY SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE'S RECENT ALL FOR NATIONAL MOBILISATION IS PROOF THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS LOST THE ABILITY TO GOVERN BY TECHNIQUES ACCEPTABLE TO THE WHOLE WESTERN WORLD.

"THE BORROWED TIME OF WHITE SUPREMACY BASED ON BLACK DISUNITY IS NOW RUNNING UOUT.

"WE BLACKS NOW KNOW THAT ATTACKS ON EACH OTHER EXTEND THE WHITE MAN'S GOVERNMENT OF TERROR.

"WE AS BLACKS NO LONGER BLAME FACTORS BEYOND OUR CONTROL FOR OUR EXPLOITATION. WE NOW ACCEPT THAT THERE IS NO POINT IN WHINING AND BEMOANING OUR FATE. WE HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE SOUTH AFRICA AND WE INTEND TO DO JUST THAT.

"EACH BLACK MAN WILL START FROM WHEREVER HE IS AND WORK EFFECTIVELY IN A MULTI-STRATEGY APPROACH TO:

I) PROMOTE GOOD HEALTHY RACE RELATIONS BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE. WE WOULD LIKE TO COUNTER THE PROPAGANDA THAT ASSOCIATION OF WHITES WITH BLACKS IS A HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE PRACTICE. WE WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE ALL WHITES THAT THIS BLACK UNITY FRONT IS NOT ANTI-WHITE BUT PRO-SOUTH AFRICA, WHITE

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FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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AND BLACK. WE INTEND TO DO OUR UTMOST BEST TO ESTABLISH HEALTHY CONTACTS WITH ALL WHITES WHOSE MINDS HAVE NOT YET BECOME RIGID OR FOSSILISED.

II) PASS LAWS - THE NOTORIOUS DOM-PASS. THIS IS THE WORST INSTRUMENT DEvised BY HUMANS AGAINST OTHER HUMANS. THIS INSTRUMENT IS SO BAD THAT IT WOULD POLLUTE THE SOIL EVEN IF IT WAS BURIED

A HUNDRED FEET DEEP. WHITES CAN NEVER BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS PASS MEANS TO BLACKS UNTIL THEY THEMSELVES CARRY THIS INSTRUMENT OF OPPRESSION AND BECOME SUBJECTED TO THE SAME INDIGNITIES AND HUMILIATIONS THAT ARE THE FATE OF THE BLACK MAN.

III) INFLUX CONTROL. IF THERE IS A NEED FOR PLANNED URBAN DEVELOPMENT, IT SHOULD NOT INVOLVE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE FORM OF INFLUX CONTROL MEASURES DIRECTED AT ONE RACIAL GROUP.

IV) 'BANTU EDUCATION'. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS BANTU EDUCATION - THERE IS ONLY EDUCATION. THIS MUST BE GIVEN TO BLACK EDUCATIONAL EXPERTS AS A MATTER OF URGENCY. THEIR TASK WOULD BE TO SCRAP IT AND COMPLETELY RESTRUCTURE IT.

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V) THE IMPROPER EXPLOITATION OF ETHNIC DIVISIONS. THIS GROWING CANCER MUST BE COMPLETELY EXTIRPATED AND DESTROYED.

VI) LAND APPORTIONMENT UNDER THE POLICY OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT IN THE FORM OF HOMELAND CONSOLIDATION IS A FARCE WHICH BLACKS WILL NEVER ACCEPT. PEASANT SOCIETIES NEED MORE LAND. WE WILL SUPPORT ATTEMPTS BY OUR LEADERS IN THE RURAL AREAS TO GIVE PEASANTS MORE LAND AND WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE IDEAL OF NON-RACIAL LAND APPORTIONMENT.

VII) BLACK INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL AND REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION, BOTH RURAL AND URBAN, MUST PERSIST AND BE INCREASED. WE WILL WORK FOR THE REJECTION OF THE HOMELAND POLICY AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF HOMELAND GOVERNMENTS INTO PROVINCIAL BODIES. BLACKS WILL THEN BE AS FREE AS WHITES TO BECOME INVOLVED IN NATIONAL POLITICS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF MAJORITY RULE.

VIII) BLACKS INSIST ON THEIR RIGHT TO SELL THEIR LABOUR ON THE OPEN MARKET. WE WILL CONTINUE TO REJECT JOB RESERVATION AND WE WILL FIGHT FOR A FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.

IX) MIGRATORY LABOUR. BLACKS KNOW THE DISASTROUS EFFECTS THIS EVIL HAS ON BLACK FAMILY LIFE. IT MUST BE FOUGHT TOOTH AND NAIL AND MUST BE GIVEN NO QUARTER.

X) FINANCING OF TOWNSHIP AMENITIES. A SO-CALLED CHRISTIAN NATION TURNS WHOLE BLACK COMMUNITIES INTO DRUNKARDS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE TOWNSHIP AMENITIES AND PAY THE SALARIES OF A HOST OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS WHO ENFORCE OPPRESSIVE LEGISLATION. OTHER METHODS OF FINANCING TOWNSHIP AMENITIES DESERVE THE UTMOST PRIORITY.

XI) SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. THIS CHAMELEON CHANGES ITS COLOURS WITH BEWILDERING RAPIDITY. IT CHANGES FROM GUARDIANSHIP, TO SEGREGATION, TO APARTHEID, TO BAASKAP, AND NOW TO SEPARATE

DEVELOPMENT. ITS REAL COLOUR IS BAASKEP AND ANY BLACK MAN
SUPPORTING SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT IS SIMPLY SUPPORTING BAASKAP.

"WE START FROM THE POINT AT WHICH HISTORY HAS PLACED US. WE
DID NOT CREATE URBAN GHETTOS THE WHITES CALL TOWNSHIPS.
WE DID NOT CREATE DOM PASSES. WE DID NOT CREATE JOB RESERVATION.
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WE DID NOT CREATE SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. WE DID NOT CREATE THESE
THINGS, YET WE FIND THEM ENFORCED BY JAILS AND BULLETS.

"EACH FROM OUR OWN POSITION WILL FIGHT THESE THINGS. WE WILL
JOIN HANDS IN THIS FIGHT AND UNITED WE WILL WIN.

"WE PRAY THAT THE PEACEFUL MEANS OF BRINGING
ABOUT THESE ESSENTIAL CHANGES WILL NOT BE DENIED US BY
WHITE KRAGDADIGHEID." (END TEXT).
JOHNSON

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